The Voice of the Greater New Haven Jewish Community

SHALOM

NEW HAVEN

SPRING 2023 • NISSAN/IYAR 5783

Passover Seder Guide

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UConn Hillel’s Discovery Trip to Israel fosters understanding.

UConn Hillel returned in January from its first ever Israel Discovery Tour, which brought 20 student leaders, both Jewish and non-Jewish, to an intensive and exponential 10-day study experience in Israel. The trip was facilitated by a grant from the Macabees Task Force (MTF), the trip providers student spokes of the region. The tour explored the region’s complex history, grappling with nuanced political and religious realities, and explore the conflicts from various perspectives.

Unlike many other trips, this trip took students into the heart of Israeli society—heard from a broad range of speakers, including David Bergman, UConn Hillel assistant director for the Israel Defense Forces, and Nathan Silver, Secretary General of the Fatah Movement. Visited Abbas Ahmad, an Australian journalist who covers Palestinian affairs for the Jerusalem Post and Lt. Colonel Eyal Hasson, former commander of the EPA’s Gaza Brigade. Participants visited the Palestinian Authority, Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria, the ADA Refugee Camp, Ramallah and major Israeli cities to get a first-hand look at multiple perspectives of the current situation. This exposure will help students understand the complexities inherent to the region and diffuse previously unformed anti-Israel sentiment.

Students stayed a night on the beach of the Sea of Galilee, visited the Galilee, the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Temple Mount. During an interactive tour of the Perez Center for Innovation and Peace, they learned about programs focused on promoting peace between Israel and its neighbors, as well as the multiplicity of options for solutions in science, technology, and medicine. And they also had the opportunity to hear from the region’s various ethnic minority communities including those from the Druze and Ethiopian communities.

Edition Director: Edina Oestreicher, UConn Hillel executive director, who staffed the trip, along with Israel Fellow Sapir Frieman, commented that, “This trip was the first time when anti-Israel sentiments are magnifying across campuses. By preparing our student leaders to face such challenges, we look forward to creating upcoming impactful social-building and meaningful dialogues.”

William Hermon “24, sat of his experience, “When we think of Israel, more often than not we think of terrorism, ‘conflict’ or ‘chaotic.’ Now when I think of Israel I feel empathy and connection.”

By connecting some of UConn’s most prominent student leaders with one another in order to engage in meaningful conversation and learn more about each other, the trip is part of a much broader strategic plan. Working with UConn Hillel, other faith organizations and cultural centers as well as students from other universities and college campuses in follow-up events that celebrate positive aspects of Israeli and engage in outreach that will leverage the impact of the trip.

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Update on strategic plan

By Robyn Teplitzky & Amy Holtz

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven embarked on a community study in 2020 to ensure a professional analysis of the changing priorities of our Jewish community. With the professional guidance of the Master Group and Panoramic Strategy, and a committed group of volunteers, a strategic roadmap was implemented which includes the five main goals. In every short time, the Jewish Federation, in collaboration with local agencies, synagogues, and organizations, has implemented positive change. We are pleased to report that the following programs, services, and campaign strategies have been put into place to ensure a vibrant and strong Jewish community.

Uniting Our Jewish Community

• Increased security at all agencies and synagogues.
• Key initiatives targeting diversity and inclusion include the hiring of a Rabbi in Residence/JORC director, increased engagement with Chasten Gnoffo Schleifer Center and JEDI (Jewish Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion).

Empower Jewish Journeys

• Increased virtual and in-person programs (Cultural Arts, JCRC programs & events, PJ Library, Shalom Baby, Women’s Philanthropy events and Dignity and Support program).

Securing our Jewish Community

Through a national partnership with SCN (Secure Community Network), the Regional Security Initiative works to enhance the safety and security of Southern and Western Connecticut Jewish communities. Together, we are working to foster a culture of empowerment, collaboration, and vigilance, ensuring that Jewish organizations operate safely and securely.

• Michael Shatnower joined us as the Regional Security Advisor.

Collaborative Programming through Impact Grants

A key priority for our agencies and organizations was to reduce duplication of services and work together to provide and enhance Jewish content. One of the core responsibilities of the Jewish Federation is to fundraise to support local and overseas humanitarian needs. As the need for our services increases, it becomes a challenge to determine where more funding should remain locally in our own community. Therefore, an initiative was implemented called ‘Impact Grants,’ providing the opportunity for new, creative, and collaborative requests to be made for funding. The Impact Grants are available to any Jewish organization, synagogue, or individual who has an idea that will address Jewish education, caring for the vulnerable, or engagement in the community.

The goals of this grant-based funding process are to:

• Unite our Jewish community, enhancing diversity and strengthening relationships through shared values and goals.
• Empower Jewish journeys through learning and immersive experiences that connect our students with Jewish values and practice.
• Maximize impact by building bridges amongst the entire community to further our mission of creating a values-based community and encouraging collaboration between Jewish organizations to maximize resources.
• Advocate as a voice of the collective Jewish community.
• Enhance the viability of life in Greater New Haven by engaging unaffiliated members of our community to ensure Jewish continuity.

Support creative and impactful community programs that nurture and advance Jewish values.

Advocacy

• Increased communication and calls to action around critical and urgent issues.
• Supported JFJAC’s sponsored Governor’s Mission to Israel.
• Increased partnership with the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League.
• Hired a full-time JORC Director & Rabbi in Residence.

There were four impact initiatives created in 2022 and new programs will be funded this year:

• Camp Laurelwood, PJ Library, & Temple Beth Tikvah – to provide engagement opportunities for intergenerational Jewish families living on the CT Shoreline. The goal is to build bridges amongst residents of Greater New Haven Jewish community to maximize resources & support creative and impactful programs that nurture and advance Jewish values.
• Intro to Judaism Course – our local spiritual leaders are training their time and talent to provide ongoing in-person learning opportunities, in partnership, Congregation Mishkan Israel (Hamden), Rabbi Brian Immennov, Congregation B’nai Jacob (West Haven), Rabbi Rachel Shapiro, Temple Emanuel, Temple Beth Tikvah, Or Shalom, Beth El-Keser Israel (New Haven), Rabbi Eric Woodward, will participate in offering Jewish learning classes.
• PJ Library – partnership on Jewish Latin and Ladino Programming
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Jewish Education

We are fortunate to have received support to invest in a community educator and Community Relations Director. Rabbi Josh Pentisch has been a valuable addition as a resource and leader. Some new programs include:

• A new Hebrew learning opportunity The New Haven Bible Scholars, presented in partnership with Congregation Beth Sholom Rodfe Shalom, Congregation Beth Avodah (Wilton), Beth Israel Synagogue (BIS), Congregation Mishkan Israel, Temple Beth David, Temple Beth Tikvah, Or Shalom and New Songs Synagogues.
• SILS Center of Yale – partnership to present Dora Him.
• PJ Library – partnership on Jewish Latin and Ladino Programming
• Israel Education including the Beit Ha’am Film Series, a 2-part interactive series with our Israel Partnership region of Arava - Gilboa. This was a valuable added program for those traveling with the community to Israel.

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Why become a Camp Counselor?
Fun fact—Michael Eisner former CEO of Disney was a camp counselor in his teens and the experience had a huge impact on him and the skills and life lessons that he learned carried with him throughout his career. He felt that being a camp counselor was the most valuable job that he ever had.

"Counselors help create our camp community. They set the loving, caring tone that turns worries into wonder and strangers into life-long friends. Counselors are parent figures, older siblings and role models, all rolled into one. They are problem-solvers, goal-setters and dream-makers – sometimes all at once. Their creativity, empathy and passion provide the seeds for each child's summer of growth."

Michael Eisner

The impact for Eisner was so great that in 2005 his book "Camp" was published. In the book he declares summer camp as an "Invaluable national institution".

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PJ Library Presents: It's a PJ Library Purim!

Reading the Megillah
On Purim, the Megillah is read aloud in synagogues all over the world – and this is one time when no one is discouraged from making noise during the service! In fact, listeners shake their gragger (Yiddish for "noise-makers") every time they hear the name of the villain in the story: Haman. Many communities also stage funny Purim skits (Yiddish for "plays") to accompany the Megillah reading.

Giving Gifts to Friends and Neighbors
The second mitzvah is sending gifts, or mishloach manot which is Hebrew for Purim gift baskets. Gifts of food to friends and colleagues ensure that everyone has the means to be happy, further foiling the evil plans of Haman. Here are some easy gifts in a jar to assemble with your family for your mishloach this year. Don't forget to add a special gragger gift!

Eating a Special Meal
In addition to the purimspiel, the costume parade, and baking hamantaschen, many families also enjoy the Seudah, or the Purim feast. Basically, this commandment is to "eat, drink, and be merry."

Giving Support to Those Who Need Help
Giving directly to those experiencing poverty, matanot l'evyonim, is the fourth mitzvah. Giving to others, especially on Purim, ensures that everyone has the means to celebrate during the holiday and also honors Esther and Mordechai's legacy of saving the Jewish people. Fulfilling the mitzvah of matanot l'evyonim can be as simple as dropping coins into a tzedakah box or making donations of food or clothing to a local pantry or shelter.
“Shalom Baby” is on the grow – with an “Expecting Expo” planned for May!

“Shalom Baby” was launched in the spring of 2020 as an initiative of Women’s Philanthropy through the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Owing to the pandemic, the original thought – to host a large community baby shower – did not come to fruition, rather it kicked off the Shalom Baby orchards and our generous Jewish community from the goal of helping young families embark on the journey that is parenthood during what was an especially isolating time.

Rather than launching with the bang of a large event, Shalom Baby began in true 2020 fashion, with virtual gatherings held online and socially distanced porch visits to spark connection between families. These visits welcomed new babies to the Jewish community with the gift of a beautiful tote bag packed with quality items, thanks to an outpouring of generosity from our many community sponsors.

Some families living in the same neighborhoods without local family support connected to create pods of stranger walking groups. Today, you can still spot them gathering together for Shabbat and holidays and attending PJ Library programs along with their toddlers who are now the best of friends. As health restrictions eased, we began one-on-one coffee dates and walking meetups across the greater New Haven area and even a Shalom Baby concert last summer.

Our new co-chair, Rebecca Gerber, moved back to town with her mother, Ruth Ratner, and her husband and baby girl from New York City at the start of the pandemic and was one of our earliest recipients of Shalom Baby. Since then, Rebecca and her family have become eager volunteers. Along with her mother, Ruth Ratner, and her mother-in-law, Nancy Gerber, Rebecca kindly agreed to co-chair the next stage of this initiative. Under our new leadership, we have hosted a weekly “Shalom Baby Café,” with families with babies as young as 4 weeks (!) getting together to bond as Jewish parents whether this is their first or fourth baby. We intend to grow these meetups outside the walls of the JCC with a spin, Shalom Baby on the Go! Keep an eye out for details about these weekly meetups. We welcome your suggestions for a preferred day, time and location for these pop-up gatherings (or even a park in Cheshire, a coffee shop in Madison, walking trail in Midtown?) by emailing Kayla at kbisbee@jewishnewhaven.org.

While we did not have that community baby shower, we are thrilled to announce “Expecting Expo,” planned for May!

“Expecting Expo” is an event that honors the growth of Shalom Baby, while providing a unique gathering of families at various stages of parenthood. Expecting Expo is a day-long event scheduled for Sunday, May 21 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven. It’s a fun day with resources for every stage of parenthood.

- Pregnancy to Pre-K
- Free & open to the public
- Free gift bag for the first 100 attendees
- Generous raffle prizes (free to enter)
- Expert speakers
- Kid zone, professional photos, giveaways
- Free classes including Infant CPR/First Aid & Pilates Palooza

More information at jewishnewhaven.org/expo23 and jewishnewhaven.org/shalom-baby.
Sensing Connections: 
The work of Cynthia Beth Rubin on Exhibit

By Susan Donohue

A difficult decision to process, as we are conditioned by society to believe that our only value is in our productivity, but we often lack the tools or strategies that can help us prioritize our well-being. By making changes (even small ones) to our priorities, we can allow ourselves to put our mental and physical health first.

By giving ourselves permission to take breaks, we can improve our overall quality of life and be more productive. Additionally, by learning to say no to things that don’t align with our values or priorities, we can create more space for ourselves.

There is no one-size-fits-all strategy, as we all adapt to different situations. Here are two simple strategies that can help prioritize our wellbeing:

1. Include yourself in your daily or weekly to-do list. Schedule it.
   - There’s value in seeing an appointment or a written goal, as you are telling yourself that you deserve priority.

2. Choose a reward that is realistic to the habit you’re trying to create and give yourself credit for achieving those smaller goals.
   - A great way to reinforce healthy habits for yourself.

Whether your intention is to embark on a new wellness journey or revisit an old one, the first step is to determine the importance of self-care to yourself, determine which aspects you want to change or enhance, then create a strategy to reinforce those aspects by creating habits that make your pursuits enriching and rewarding. In the end, your self-care strategy will allow you to enjoy a better quality of life and experience overall you’re worth it!

Struggling with how or where to start? Contact susan@jccnh.org for a free wellness consultation to determine the best ways to be healthier and more active.

For more information: susan@jccnh.org

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Meet and collaborate in a dynamic setting with audio-visual equipment for productivity and connection.
Celebrating 43 years!

As we celebrate 43 years in Stratford, we would like to welcome Dr. Zachary Korwin to our Brush & Floss Family!

"As we celebrate 43 years in Stratford, we would like to welcome Dr. Zachary Korwin to our Brush & Floss Family!"

Help build customized MP3 programming for our residents. What is your idea for a program that would help to change someone’s life and your own?

A sampling of programs that you can get involved in:

- **Dining Scarf Initiative:** Help sew beautiful scarves for residents to use when dining.
- **Horticulture:** Work with residents monthly as they create flower arrangements.
- **Music and Memory:** Help build customized MP3 playlists for residents with early cognitive decline.
- **Opening Mind Through Art:** Work one-on-one with a resident each week for 16 weeks to make art through this evidence-based program.
- **Java:** Help run this social connection building program.

To get involved, please contact Sarah Moskowitz, Volunteer Coordinator, at sarah@towerlane.org or (203) 772-1816. Learn more at https://towerlane.org/get-involved/volunteer/.
“Fly with Us” contest will send a New England family to Israel

By Stacey Dresser
Associate Editor, Southern New England Jewish Ledger

Most Jewish educators would agree that one of the best ways to instill a love of Israel is to travel to Israel. Which is the goal of “Fly With Us,” a contest for Jewish families around New England presented by the Boston-based educational nonprofit Returning the Sparks and several Jewish organizations including the Consulate General of Israel to England and the Israel Ministry of Tourism. This contest is supported by our own Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, as well as Federations in Stamford, Central Massachusetts, and Western MA.

One family will be awarded four Delta Premium Select round trip tickets from the United States to Tel Aviv, and $5,000 which can be used towards a trip with the tour operator, Authentic Israel. The grand-prize winner will be selected by a panel of Returning the Sparks and Consulate General of Israel to New England staff and advisors and announced on the website on Yom Ha’atzmaut—April 26.

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is working with all local Hebrew schools and Jewish day schools to encourage their families to take part in this program. The Federation will also offer a special gift to the local “winner” of this program, as judged by a team of local panelists, said Interim CEO Amy Holtz. “We chose Fly With Us because it is an opportunity to take part in a regional program with partners across the Federations throughout New England, providing a great opportunity to collaborate with our neighboring communities,” she noted. “We are trying to keep Israel engagement high on our list of communal educational priorities, particularly for our young families,” added Rabbi Josh Pernick, director of the New Haven Federations Jewish Community Relations Council. “Israel’s 75th birthday provides a natural opportunity to engage families in conversations about Israel, as often conversations about Israel, when they happen, take place within formal educational programs. Families with children 7—17 can enter (deadline March 16) at flywithusIsrael.com.

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- ElderCare Navigation
- Geriatric Assessment & Physician Services
- Long-Term Care Planning/Asset Protection
- Kosher Catering

For More Information on JSS Services, call 1-933-JSS-LINK (577-5465)

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The elements of the Passover Seder explained

MATZAH
Rabbi Elyse Wise
Temple Beth El-Keser, Westville

Matzah is understood as having two significances: a reminder of the bond of affliction, and the brent of freedom. But this dual nature of matzah, which symbolizes freedom, of suffering and redemption, of pain and healing, actually invites us to reflect on the interconnectedness of our lives. Pesach is about seeing ourselves as interconnected with other Jews and with the world around us, and using that interconnectedness to foster empathy, care, and a push for liberation.

AFIKOMEN
Rabbi Brian Immerman
Congregation Mahechiof Israel, Hamden

The Afikomen is the broken piece of matzah that is saved from view before continuing with the seder. Even though we are reminded that uncovering the Afikomen is, in our own lives and world require work to seek and discover what we cannot readily see. Only then can we experience full redemption.

HAGGADAH
Rabbi Danny Minko
Temple Beth Tikvoh, Madison

Haggadah means storytelling. “A Hagadah,” by extension, is the book or pamphlet containing the Passover Seder. The central meaning of the Passover Seder is educational: telling the story of the Exodus from Egypt. Jews are storytellers by nature—who we convey meaning, feel connected through meaningful oral experience, and pass wisdom from one generation to the next.

BEITZAH
Rabbi Josh Pernick

The “beitzah,” or egg, reminds us of the additional offering, the “kobil chagigual,” or festival offering, that was brought in the days of the Temple in Passover. The roasted egg reminds us of the fulfillment of God’s promise to the Jewish people: “I will bring you into the land that I promised to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession, I the LORD.” (Exodus 6:8)

KARPAH
Rabbi Josh Pernick

The karpas is a reminder of the earliest stages of our sojourning as a people. “Our lives were terrible and prolific, they multiplied and increased very greatly, so that the land was filled with them.” (Exodus 6:9). The karpas on our plate, with sprouts seeming to bloom in all directions, all tracing their roots to a common stem, is a symbol of our rapid flourishing from only seventy souls in a land not our own.

CHAROSET
Rabbi Joshua Perl

There are two bitter herbs on the seder plate. The first, maror, is difficult to eat. But the second, “charoset”, is not eaten at all. The maror allows us of the experience when the Temple stood. We bring a stand-in, a bone, and put it on the plate. We call the shaving “a Gems, a reminder of the “maror” required, the strong arm, with which God brought us out of Egypt.

CHAZERET
Rabbi Josh Pernick

And so, of the Seder representing different elements of our escape from slavery and our journey to freedom and redemption. And so, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, asked several of our recent rabbis to discuss the seder, with each one—including Rabbi Pernick himself, offering insights into the significance of various elements of the Seder. Here is what they had to say.
ON DISPLAY
Feb. 5 through March 5
AWARENESS:
Life As We See It Through A Neurodiverse Lens
at Chapel Haven Schleifer Center
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susans@jccnh.org

Presented by:
The Hoos Family Art Gallery of the JCC of Greater New Haven has partnered with Chapel Haven Schleifer Center (CHSC) to present “Awareness: Life As We See It Through A Neurodiverse Lens,” an art show honoring February as Disabilities Awareness Month.

Original works of art by CHSC artists — including John Orr, Chris Murray, Zachary Spieksman and David Hogin — will be on exhibit at the JCC at 350 Amory Road in Woodbridge, through March 5. The exhibit will also feature many collaborative pieces done by participants in Chapel Haven’s Tina’s Out to Art classes. “I have always believed that we are all artists, artists,” says CHSC Art Director Tina Minchetti. “Given the tools, support, inspiration and comfortable environment, most will flourish and happily create. I remind my students that it is not the product but the process, the journey not the destination.”

Author Dara Horn to discuss ‘People Love Dead Jews’ in New Haven

On Wednesday evening, March 29, award-winning novelist, essayist and author Dara Horn will visit New Haven to discuss her recent best-selling book, ‘People Love Dead Jews.’ Horn will also talk about the nefarious nature of antisemitism and why she decided to dive into this form of hate after years spent intentionally avoiding containing it in her work. Dr. Horn will join the Yale community for a series of sessions throughout the day, culminating in a public lecture open to the entire New Haven community.

Dara Horn’s talk is on March 29, 7-9 p.m., at Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall, Room 114, 1 Prospect St. in New Haven. The talk is sponsored by AEN, Office of DEI at Yale School of Medicine, The Buckley Program, JCRC of Greater New Haven, SiRka Center.

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Super Coupon
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Super Coupon
$5.00 OFF

Please give generously. Visit jewishnewhaven.org/give
Scholarship opportunities from the Jewish Foundation

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS: All scholarships are for area students from Jewish households. All applications must be completed online by May 15. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed. This is a competitive process and unfortunately not all applicants will receive awards. Go to jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships for more information on Israel Experience and College Scholarships.

• Mary Taylor Friedler Memorial Scholarship Fund
• Bloch Family Fund for Israel Travel
• Esther Gold Milikowsky-Copenel Fund
• Marcia S. Plotnick Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund
• Arthur Spingold Israel Scholarship Fund
• Lawrence & Florence Winer Israel Scholarship Fund
• The Earl and Muriel Banquer Israel Endowment Fund

ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS: The Jewish Foundation Israel Experience Program offers grants to local Jewish students ages 14–20 to develop and enrich their Jewish education and reinforce their Jewish identity.

• The Jewish Foundation Israel Experience Scholarship
• The Earl and Muriel Banquer Israel Endowment Fund
• The Rachel and Matisyahu Block Family Fund for Israel Travel by Greater New Haven Residents
• Marvin S. Pisetsky Israel Scholarship
• Laurelwood, Camp Gan Israel, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, the JCC, David, Temple Beth Sholom, Temple Beth Tikvah, Ezra Academy, Camp Laurelwood, Camp Sam Israel, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, the JCC, and more—2023 applications are now being accepted on a rolling basis until August 3, 2023.

Grants for the Jewish Elders' Grant:

Grants for the Jewish Elders’ Grant to benefit new and innovative programs and projects for Jewish elders residing in Greater New Haven. In 2022, $1,890,000 in grants were awarded to Congregation B’nai Jacob, Congregation BEKI, Congregation Or Shalom, Chabad of the Shoreline, Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, the Israeli Jewish Center, Temple Emanuel, Beth Shalom Roddick Zeade, Congregation Malkhut Israel, Wilshire Synagogue, Beth Israel (Wallingford), Temple Beth David, Temple Beth Sholom, Temple Beth Tikvah, Ezra Academy, Camp Laurelwood, Camp Sam Israel, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, the JCC, and more—2023 applications are due April 30, 2023.

NEED-BASED AID FOR OVERNIGHT JEWISH CAMP:

The Jewish Foundation, in partnership with the One Happy Camper program of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and an anonymous donor, is thrilled to offer need-blind grants of $375–$1,000 for first-time campers from Greater New Haven to attend any one of 195 traditional and specialty Jewish overnight camps nationwide.

To learn more or apply, please visit: jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships/one-happy-camper

ONE HAPPY CAMPER:

For overnight Jewish summer camps, the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven offers need-blind incentive grants for first-time campers as well as needs-based scholarships for first-time and returning campers.

Campers must reside in the Greater New Haven catchment area and must be attending an overnight camp in North America. For more information go to jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships/one-happy-camper.

GRANTS:

Go to jewishnewhaven.org/grants for all grant information and applications. Security Grants Initiative from the Arthur Edor Family Fund, in memory of Arthur & Trudy Edor Since 2022, $1,500,000. In security grants have been awarded to Congregation Etz Jacob, Congregation BERNI, Congregation Or Shalom, Chabad of the Shoreline, Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, the Israeli Jewish Center, Temple Emanuel, Beth Shalom Roddick Zeade, Congregation Malkhut Israel, Wilshire Synagogue, Beth Israel (Wallingford), Temple Beth David, Temple Beth Sholom, Temple Beth Tikvah, Ezra Academy, Camp Laurelwood, Camp Sam Israel, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, the JCC, and more—2023 applications are now being accepted on a rolling basis until August 3, 2023.

Grants to Greater New Haven organizations:

Grants to Greater New Haven to attend Jewish overnight camps nationwide. The Jewish Foundation, in partnership with an anonymous donor, is thrilled to offer need-blind grants of $375–$1,000 for first-time campers from Greater New Haven to attend any one of 195 traditional and specialty Jewish overnight camps nationwide.

Applications for summer programs the deadline is April 7, 2023. For more information go to jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships/one-happy-camper.

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LOCAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS AND SYNAGOGUES $3,245,197
LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP $216,721
NONLOCAL SECULAR $311,939
NONLOCAL JEWISH $215,096

COMMUNITY IMPACT OF 2022 CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS $3,988,953

TOTAL 2022 CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS $3,988,953

Jewish Foundation OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

2022 Financial Summary

Total Foundation Assets $71.9 million
Contributions (in gifts received) $2,930,773
Charitable Distributions/Grants $3,958,953

Top 5 Distributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PACE Distributions to Federation Annual Campaign</td>
<td>$519,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Grants</td>
<td>$287,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Elderly Grants</td>
<td>$219,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven - Community Impact</td>
<td>$174,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships for Jewish Overnight Camps</td>
<td>$29,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on Israel Experience and College Scholarships, go to jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships. For more information on Security Grants Initiative from the Arthur Edor Family Fund, go to jewishnewhaven.org/grants. For more information on need-based need-blind grants for Jewish overnight camps, go to jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships/one-happy-camper.
Jewish Foundation kicks off ‘Create a Jewish Legacy’ initiative

Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven

Jewish organizations in Greater New Haven are launching the second Create a Jewish Legacy initiative, a 4-year program provided and sponsored by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

The kickoff, held on Zoom by nearly 60 representatives of participating local Jewish organizations, was attended by Lisa Stanger, Executive Director of Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

The initiative aims to steward, sustain, and build on all that we have already accomplished together as well as to further assist our organizations in integrating legacy giving into their culture. To achieve this mission, the Jewish Foundation will distribute $170,000 in incentive grants over the next 4 years, host professional training sessions in partnership with the Gismon Foundation, and provide consulting, leadership coaching, and publicity resources to participating organizations.

The program officially launched on January 1, 2023, and the first year will include trainings on building successful Legacy Action Plans using materials and strategies from their first training workshop. Additional workshops in this first year will include trainings on holding successful legacy conversations, marketing a legacy campaign, and stewarding donors.

Be forever remembered by our community for the legacy you leave.

Make YOUR legacy a brighter Jewish tomorrow.

For more information, contact the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.
Lina Stanger, Executive Director | (203) 387-2424, ext. 324 | lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org
Tamar Schneller, Create a Jewish Legacy Manager | (203) 387-2424, ext. 325 | tschneller@jewishnewhaven.org

Each month nearly 20,000 visitors enter the JCC’s Beckerman/Lender Community Building to enjoy its facilities, attend a program or meeting and meet friends. Striking a balance between a friendly, relaxed atmosphere and regulating who comes and goes is an important task of JCC staff. “We want our community to feel relaxed and safe when they visit”, said Scott Cohen the JCC Executive Director. In order to help create the safe but friendly atmosphere, a new glass security wall was installed this fall. The project which was undertaken by the Facility and Security Committee under the direction of Chair Evan Winer was designed by committee member and Architect Peggy Rubens-Duhl of Fresh Architect and installed by Derby Glass Inc. The committee also benefitted from the assistance of Mike Shanbrom, the Regional Security Advisor for Greater New Haven.

The security wall and new deskues are made of intruder resistant glass and have integrated card access to allow access to JCC members. Visitors can easily interact with the JCC’s Welcome Desk staff to gain entry to the building. The security wall was made possible with a grant in memory of Arthur and Edith Edler. From the Arthur Edler Family Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. Support for JCC security improvements also comes from the State of Connecticut. Recently the JCC was the recipient of a Federal Non-profit Security Grant which will be used to further security initiatives in the facility.
IN OUR SYNAGOGUES

**Beth Israel Synagogue hosts 3-week program for interfaith couples**

This past January, Rabbi Alpert of Beth Israel Synagogue, along with Dr. Helen Schwartz and Rabbi Emeritus Temple Beth Tikvah in Madison, facilitated a three-week program on interfaith relations for interfaith couples in the greater Madison area. The program was a tremendous success! The purpose of the series was to explore the challenges faced by both partners when they have decided to make Judaism a central part of their marital and children’s lives. Topics covered were “Nourishing our spiritual selves (understanding one’s own values and priorities), “Things we hold in common,” and “Things we pass on” (learning the non-Jewish perspective in their children’s upbringing). RABBI ALPERT EXPLAINED WHY THIS PROGRAM WAS AN IMPORTANT ONE: Over the last many years, I have come to look at interfaith relations through a different lens. Long held by Jews to be the culmination of the process of assimilation, I no longer see these traditions as a grave threat to Jewish survival. The graver threat, in my opinion, is not assimilation, nor another religion, but rather the loss of any religious connection at all. Every recent study of religious trends in the United States (and throughout most of the Western world), for that matter, shows that the fastest growing religious affiliation—especially among young people—is none at all.

While assuredly a threat, I believe this trend and the opportunity it brings to younger people often provides an opportunity to “redefine religion” (whatever that term might mean). I believe that the impetus to seek a transcendent meaning to one’s life is an inextricable part of the human spirit. And in the search for meaning to one’s life, Judaism stems to my opinion—the greatest of all faiths.

Rabbi Alpert

**synagogue. so many non-Jewish members play significant roles in all aspects of our synagogue’s life.** And many of them find real spiritual meaning in their family’s Jewish connection. So I find myself very optimistic about what outreach to interfaith couples can mean for our community.**
Annual Fundraising

The Federation annual campaign uses the power of the collective to help Jews in need and to build a vibrant community in Greater New Haven. This campaign is not just for one year, but for years to come. It supports our agencies and programs. The Jewish Federation in Greater New Haven continues to work to support children and adults, provides engaging experiences throughout the year for families, as well as for seniors and the home-bound elderly.

Women’s Philanthropy, Shalom Baby, Jewish Community Relations Council, and with the Ukraine Relief efforts. Our local emergency campaign raised over 400 pounds of medical supplies. $175,000. Dr. Steven Fleischman and Amy Holtz represented the New Haven community through newly established and increased Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) funds. The peak months are February and March, and the other million dollars to be raised targets the existing PACE funds.

Why Should I Open a PACE Fund?

REASON #1: PACE Fund accounts for a specific (and growing) portion of Federation’s Annual Campaign. When David and Ruth Bronfman first launched PACE in the Greater New Haven community back in 1993, PACE fund contributors accounted for just under $20,000 towards a $3.17 million annual campaign, a little more than 0.6% of all donations to that year’s campaign. Last year, PACE funds raised over $317,000 towards a $2.39 million campaign, or nearly 22% of all monies raised. If you start a PACE fund today we can ensure that number continues to grow. If you start a PACE fund today, we can ensure that number continues to grow.

REASON #2: A PACE Fund is a Win-Win Scenario! When you open a PACE fund at the Jewish Federation, not only does it provide benefits to the Jewish Federation in Greater New Haven, but it also benefits you. Here are some of the ways.

This gift makes a statement about your Jewish values and commitment to Jewish life and culture—today and for future generations.

Endowment Fundraising

In addition to providing for the needs in the future, the current campaign allocates funds to more than 30 different agencies, organizations, and programs including (in alphabetical order):
- AmericanJoinDistributionCommittee(UDC)
- BillCulturalHeritageAcademy
- Birthright
- BBYO
- Camp Laurelwood
- EzraAcademy
- HebrewBurial&FreeLeaves
- HillsfieldUCONN,
- JewishCommunityRelationsCouncil
- JewishHistoricalSociety
- JewishPhilanthropyConference
- JewishStudentUnion
- JSCA(JewishCouncilforPublicAffairs)
- JFACT(JewishFederationAssociationofCT)
- JerusalemAcademy
- NewHavenMikvah
- OnwardIsrael
- SENC(SouthernNewEnglandCoalition
- JewishFederations
- SouthernCTAcademy
- SynagogueCoalition
- TheTowers
- WorldOrt
- YeshivaBeisDovidShalom

Israel and Overseas

A top initiative for the community was to offer an intensive learning and sightseeing trip to Israel. In collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, over 150 people will participate on an Israel adventure trip planned for the spring of 2023.

Additionally, our local Jewish community was very supportive and engaged with our “Your Jewish ladder” campaign. We raised $175,000, Dr. Steven Fleischman and Amy Holtz represented the New Haven community.

Women’s Philanthropy, Shalom Baby, Jewish Community Relations Council, and with the Ukraine Relief efforts. Our local emergency campaign raised over 400 pounds of medical supplies. $175,000. Dr. Steven Fleischman and Amy Holtz represented the New Haven community.

In sum, the Jewish community of Greater New Haven is thriving and expanding. We want to make sure that we can experience those gains, in every aspect create from grass roots.

The Jewish Federation, as the community convener, is proud of the work being done in the community. The investment and commitment of many has increased and we look forward to growing and continuing to be a vibrant community.

For more information or any questions regarding the Jewish Community Study, please contact Robyn Teplitzky, Community Consultant at rteplitzky@jewishnewhaven.org.

Your willingness to match the challenge to help us meet our $2 million goal!

Always important to consult with your financial advisor before making any planned or bequest gifts. To learn more about PACE or to start a PACE fund, please contact Lisa Stanger at (203) 387-2424 x254 or lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org.

The Federation annual campaign allocates funds to more than 30 different agencies, organizations, and programs including (in alphabetical order):

Study, please contact Robyn Teplitzky, Community Consultant at rteplitzky@jewishnewhaven.org.

DO YOU KNOW? A Women’s Philanthropy gift can also be endowed as a special type of PACE fund (or Loan of Jewish Endowment Fund) in your name.

Why Do I Need a Legacy? (Continued from page 5)

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Spring & Passover: A great time to get outside...and read!

By Yelena Gerovich New American Acculturation Program Coordinator

Spring is one of the happiest times of the year. Sunny days and Purim celebrations make it a time when many people want to read. Many people take time to read during this season. By Yelena Gerovich for New American Acculturation Program.

For more information, including sponsorships of specific programs, contact Yelena Gerovich at ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org.
Marcy Thomaswick joins Beth Israel as educational director

The 126-year-old Beth Israel Synagogue in Walkingford entered a new era in 2022 with the addition of educational director Marcy Thomaswick.

Marcy, who teaches students from all grades on Sundays (with Rabbi Alpert teaching older students on Tuesdays), has expertise in the psychology and science of reading, in both English and Hebrew learning. Her curricula emphasizes social justice, social and emotional learning, and outdoor education, all tied in with Judaism. In addition, she is experienced in working with interfaith families.

“In order to allow students the maximum amount of growth, I provide them with hands-on, experiential activities with authentic problem solving and collaboration,” Marcy said. “I consider education to encompass all parts of the student life: physical well-being, social/ emotional growth, and positive emotional growth, and positive interactions with the world.”

Marcy’s innovations at Beth Israel’s Hebrew school include having mixed grade levels collaborate together and enabling children to learn to work independently in a “flipped classroom” approach whereby students watch videos about subjects beforehand – Torah portions will be the first in class. Students also benefit from hands-on creative engagement, one recent project included a group project where students created a miniature edible Sukkah.

A member of Beth Israel Synagogue for more than five years, Marcy considers teaching Sunday school a sacred obligation.

“I’m very lucky. I’ve found my passion as a teacher and a Jew,” she said. “I get to work with kids and have them experience Judaism as a joy as I do, so that their love goes beyond the bar mitzvah. I want them to know Judaism is not just about the prayer book, but also about mitzvot, such as walking your dog or cleaning up trash. I connect it to the ordinary things we already do.”

Marcy Thomaswick

JCC of Greater New Haven-31.png
Celebrate their accomplishment with friends and family.